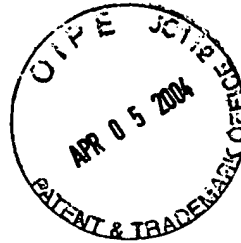


04/7/04



Attorney Docket No. 03684/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): S. KONUMA et al.

Serial No. : 10/713,531

Filed : November 12, 2003

For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Art Unit : 2852

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are copies of the documents identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached form PTO/SB/08A to confirm that the documents listed therein have all been considered and made of record.

Commercially available English Language Abstracts are provided for each of the Japanese documents submitted herewith. The English Abstract for Japanese Patent No. 2971009 is identified as Publication No. 08-320863, which is the 18-month publication of the application which matured into Japanese Patent No. 2971009.

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Date of Deposit: April 5, 2004

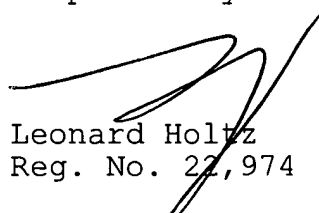
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

N. Sahadeo
Nalini P. Sahadeo

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

The documents submitted herewith are identified on page 1 of the present specification and are discussed in the introductory portion of the present specification. It is respectfully submitted that the discussion in the present specification, and the English language Abstracts submitted herewith, constitute an explanation of materiality, as required by the USPTO. It is respectfully requested that the documents submitted herewith be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard Holtz
Reg. No. 22,974

Dated: April 5, 2004

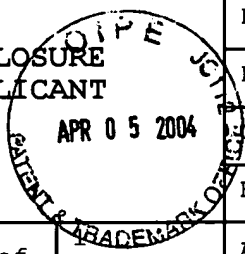
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| Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  | | | Application Number | 10/713,531 |
| | | | Filing Date | November 12, 2003 |
| | | | First Named Inventor | S. KONUMA |
| | | | Group Art Unit | |
| | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | Attorney Docket Number | 03684/LH |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits* | Cite No ¹ | Document Number | Kind Code ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits* | Cite No ¹ | Offc ³ | Document Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T ⁶ |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| ✓ | A | JP | 2971009 | B2 | HITACHI ELECTRON SERVICE CO LTD | 08-27-1999 | | X* |
| | B | JP | 06-027931 | A | BROTHER IND LTD | 02-04-1994 | | X* |
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*English Language
Abstract only

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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: April 5, 2004